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SPOKANE COUNTY

OFFICE OF

COUNTY UTILITIES

WILLIAM R. DOBRATZ
UTILITIES DIRECTORN. 811 JEFFERSON ST. 456-3604
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99260RECEIVED
APR 20 1990
SUPERFUND BRANCH

(b) (6)

Chair, Colbert Landfill Citizens Committee

(b) (6)

Colbert, WA 99005

April 16, 1990

Dear (b) (6)

I wish you a (b) (6), and with the spring like weather I bet It's nice to be home. I apologize for not responding to your March 12 letter sooner. (b) (6), I trust (b) (6) has kept you up to date on the progress, she has been very helpful.

The letters you sent pointed out problems that required immediate attention, as such I sent Bill Wedlake to investigate. He contacted the affected property owners to verify the claims. As a result I felt it was necessary to involve Bruce Austin and his subconsultant Western Environmental (Mel Wilson). The main concern seemed to be well sampling procedures. It was evident that proper sampling procedures were not followed such as purge times and sample locations. There was also evidence that field data was falsified to show samples taken that were in fact not.

I felt it was best to allow our consultant to arrive at a solution to solve the problem, with the exception that the field representative who falsified field notes would not be allowed to work on the Colbert project. Bruce then presented some suggestions that would place tighter controls on the sampling procedure. I recommended that we invite (b) (6) to a meeting to discuss the solutions before I asked Bruce to proceed.

At the meeting were Bruce Austin, Mel Wilson, Bill Dobratz, (b) (6) and myself. Bruce presented his ideas on how to minimize any further errors in the sampling procedure. The group discussed the alternatives and made their recommendations. The main topic of discussion were the field data logs. The field data log is a useful tool that if followed would standardize the samples.

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The log includes:

- name and address of property owner
- prior notification request
- sample location
- purge times/volumes
- site specific information

Several of the logs had data gaps and needed updating, Bruce and (b) (6) decided to get together at a later date to review each log and fill in the required information. Some of the sampling locations needed additional work to be a viable sample, such as well head access or improvements. Those sites will be looked at on an individual basis to determine if the costs are worth the benefit.

The logs are currently being updated, and Bruce has assured the County that corrective measures are in place to alleviate any further concern. The County feels it is important to maintain good community relations and strives for quality work from our consultants in the field. If at any time a property owner observes any work that appears to be less than satisfactory, notify myself or someone in Utilities Department to investigate. I look forward to working with you and the committee on the Colbert cleanup project. If you have any further questions please call me.

sincerely,

Dean Fowler
Project Manager

cc: Bruce Austin Neil Thompson EPA
(b) (6) Mike Kuntz Ecology
Bill Dobratz Bill Wedlake